

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF

NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

---

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

John Wilkinson (Printers) Ltd., Ashington  
1954



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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR 1953

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.*

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for 1953.

The vital statistics remain substantially the same. There was a slight rise in the birth rate and a slight fall in the death rate. Both rates are higher than those for the country as a whole. The total number of infant deaths was 6, the same as in the previous year, but the infantile mortality rate was slightly lower because of the larger total number of live births.

It is pleasant to be able to report that no death occurred, during the year, from any form of Tuberculosis and only three new cases of the disease, two respiratory and one non-respiratory, were notified. The incidence of other notifiable infectious diseases remained very low.

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms also showed a substantial decrease and the death rate from this cause was 1.51 per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 2.25 in 1952.

The total number of new houses completed was again 80, and the completion of the privy conversion and water supply schemes at North Seaton Colliery marks a great improvement in the living conditions of the people there.

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the council and the staffs of the Health and other departments for the consideration and assistance they have given me.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

*C. B. McGregor, M.B., D.P.H.,*

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Urban District of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea.*

URBAN DISTRICT OF NEWBIGGIN-BY-THE-SEA

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OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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|  |     |     |     |     |  |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|--|
| <i>Medical Officer of Health</i>       | ... | ... | ... | ... | Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| <i>Assistant Medical Officer</i>       | ... | ... | ..  | ... | Kathleen Dick, M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.   |
| <i>Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector</i> | ... | ... | ... | ... | H. Selby Robson, M.R.S.I.                  |
| <i>Offices of the U.D.C.</i>           | ... | ... | ... | ... | Council Offices, Front Street, Newbiggin.  |
| <i>Telephone</i>                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | Newbiggin 350.                             |
| <i>Offices of the M.O.H.</i>           | ... | ... | ... | ... | 146 Station Road, Ashington.               |
| <i>Telephone</i>                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | Ashington 2287.                            |
| <i>Residence of the M.O.H.</i>         | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 Churchburn Drive, Morpeth.              |
| <i>Telephone</i>                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | Morpeth 519.                               |
| <i>Residence of the A.M.O.H.</i>       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 Kendor Grove, Morpeth.                  |
| <i>Telephone</i>                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | Morpeth 647.                               |

# SECTION A

Newbiggin-by-the-Sea Urban District has an area of 1,841 acres, lying to the north of the River Wansbeck and bounded on the east by the sea, on the north by Morpeth Rural District and on the north and west by Ashington Urban District.

The main industry is coal-mining, which is carried out at two pits, one situated at Newbiggin and the other at North Seaton Colliery.

Some of the population are employed in agriculture and a few in fishing.

There is a fine sandy beach, which is popular with holiday-makers from Ashington and elsewhere. The Council owns tennis-courts and bowling greens and there is a golf-course on the links to the north-east of the town and adjoining the fore-shore.

A stretch of moor near the Church Point has, for many years, been used for holiday camping and it is hoped that a properly laid out and controlled camping site may be established there. The position is suitable and such a camp, situated as it would be, close to the sea and the sands and yet near to shops would attract many visitors.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |         |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|
| Area in Acres  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,841   |
| Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population mid-1953 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,917   |
| Rateable Value   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £42,388 |
| One Penny Rate   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £151    |
| Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953)                     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2,879   |

## VITAL STATISTICS

### BIRTHS

| LIVE BIRTHS: |     | Total | Male | Female |
|--------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate   | ... | 163   | 89   | 74     |
| Illegitimate | ... | 7     | 4    | 3      |
|              |     | 170   | 93   | 77     |

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 17.14

Standard Birth Rate (Crude Birth Rate x Comparability Factor 1.02) ... 17.48

| STILL BIRTHS: |     | Total | Male | Female |
|---------------|-----|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate    | ... | 5     | 3    | 2      |
| Illegitimate  | ... | 1     | 0    | 1      |
|               |     | 6     | 3    | 3      |

Rate per 1,000 of the total (live and still) births ... 34.09

Rate per 1,000 of total population ... 0.60

### DEATHS

| Total | Male | Female |
|-------|------|--------|
| 109   | 57   | 52     |

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population ... 10.99

Standard Death Rate (Crude Death Rate x Comparability Factor 1.14) ... 12.53

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):—

|   | Deaths | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births |
|---|--------|--|
| Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion                         | 1      | 5.68   |
| Death Rate of Infants under 1 year:—                    |        |  |
| All infants per 1,000 live births                       | ...    | 35.29  |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births     | ...    | 36.81  |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ...    | Nil  |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                           | ...    | 15   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                          | ...    | Nil  |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)                   | ...    | Nil  |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)                   | ...    | Nil  |

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

|            | Total | Male | Female |
|------------|-------|------|--------|
| Legitimate | 4     | 3    | 1      |



The Registrar-General supplies the following :—

## CAUSES OF DEATH, 1953

|  | Male     | Female   |
|--|----------|----------|
| 1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ... ..                | —        | —        |
| 2. Tuberculosis (other forms) ... ..               | —        | —        |
| 3. Syphilitic Disease ... ..                       | —        | —        |
| 4. Diphtheria ... ..                               | —        | —        |
| 5. Whooping Cough ... ..                           | —        | —        |
| 6. Meningococcal Infections ... ..                 | —        | —        |
| 7. Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..                      | —        | —        |
| 8. Measles ... ..                                  | —        | —        |
| 9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases ... ..   | —        | —        |
| 10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach ... ..             | —        | 2        |
| 11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... ..      | 1        | 1        |
| 12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast ... ..              | —        | 2        |
| 13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus ... ..              | —        | 2        |
| 14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ... .. | 6        | 1        |
| 15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ... ..                   | —        | —        |
| 16. Diabetes ... ..                                | —        | —        |
| 17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... ..      | 15       | 15       |
| 18. Coronary Disease, Angina ... ..                | 9        | 2        |
| 19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ... ..         | —        | 1        |
| 20. Other Heart Disease ... ..                     | 14       | 15       |
| 21. Other Circulatory Disease ... ..               | 1        | —        |
| 22. Influenza ... ..                               | —        | —        |
| 23. Pneumonia ... ..                               | 2        | 2        |
| 24. Bronchitis ... ..                              | 3        | 2        |
| 25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ... ..    | —        | —        |
| 26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ... ..            | —        | —        |
| 27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ... ..      | —        | —        |
| 28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..                 | —        | 1        |
| 29. Hyperplasia of prostate ... ..                 | 1        | —        |
| 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ... ..         | —        | 1        |
| 31. Congenital Malformations ... ..                | —        | —        |
| 32. Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases ... ..  | 4        | 3        |
| 33. Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..                 | —        | —        |
| 34. All other Accidents ... ..                     | 1        | 1        |
| 35. Suicide ... ..                                 | —        | 1        |
| 36. Homicide and Operations of War ... ..          | —        | —        |
|  | <hr/> 57 | <hr/> 52 |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—                  | Male     | Female   |
| Legitimate ... ..                                  | 5        | 1        |
| Illegitimate ... ..                                | —        | —        |
|  | <hr/> 5  | <hr/> 1  |

## CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH IN NEWBIGGIN

|   | Total No. | % of Total Deaths |
|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Diseases of Heart and Circulation ... ..  | 42        | 38.53             |
| Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ... .. | 30        | 27.52             |
| Malignant Neoplasms ... ..                | 15        | 13.76             |



## INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1953

|                                      | Under<br>1 day | 1-6<br>days | 1-2<br>wks. | 2-3<br>wks. | 3-4<br>wks. | Total<br>under<br>1 mth. | 1-3<br>mths. | 3-6<br>mths. | 6-9<br>mths. | 9-12<br>mths. | Total<br>under<br>1 year |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| Haemolytic disease of<br>newborn ... | 1              | —           | —           | —           | —           | 1                        | —            | —            | —            | —             | 1                        |
| Birth Injury ...                     | —              | 2           | —           | —           | —           | 2                        | —            | —            | —            | —             | 2                        |
| Bronchitis ...                       | —              | —           | —           | —           | —           | —                        | 1            | 1            | —            | —             | 2                        |
| Pneumonia ...                        | —              | —           | —           | —           | 1           | 1                        | —            | —            | —            | —             | 1                        |
|                                      | 1              | 2           | —           | —           | 1           | 4                        | 1            | 1            | —            | —             | 6                        |

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

#### LABORATORY FACILITIES

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service in the laboratory situated at Newcastle General Hospital. The extent to which the facilities have been utilised is shown below:—

| Specimen sent by<br>Regional Hospital Board Chest | Specimen                         | Pos. | Neg. |
|---|----------------------------------|------|------|
| Physician ...                                     | Sputum for B. Tuberculosis ...   | 5    | 54   |
| General Practitioners ...                         | Swabs for Haem. Streptococcus    | —    | 4    |
| General Practitioners ...                         | Swabs for C. Diphtheriae ...     | —    | 4    |
| General Practitioners ...                         | Swabs for Vincent's Angina ...   | 1    | 3    |
| General Practitioners ...                         | Blood for agglutination test ... | —    | 1    |
| General Practitioners ...                         | Faeces for pathogenic organisms  | —    | 1    |
| Medical Officer of Health ...                     | do                               | 1    | 11   |
| Regional Hospital Board Physician ...             | do                               | 1    | —    |
| Medical Officer of Health ...                     | Pie for food-poisoning organisms | —    | 1    |

#### AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The ambulance service in Newbiggin is provided by the Northumberland County Council, with ambulances stationed at Ashington. At North Seaton Colliery the Miners' Welfare Committee continues to run its own ambulance service, but any North Seaton resident not entitled to this service can obtain the use of a County Council ambulance when necessary.

#### NURSING IN THE HOME

This service is administered and provided by the Northumberland County Council, and nurses are stationed as follows:—

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Newbiggin ...    | 3 |
| North Seaton ... | 1 |

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

These are provided by the County Council and clinics are held at the Child Welfare Centre, Jubilee Terrace, Newbiggin, as follows:—

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Child Welfare Clinic ...    | Every Thursday, morning and afternoon.    |
| Diphtheria Immunisation ... | Wednesday morning, at 4-weekly intervals. |
| Ante-natal Clinic ...       | Every Tuesday afternoon.                  |

Clinics are also held at 18 High Double Row, North Seaton Colliery, as follows:—

|                           |                                |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Child Welfare Clinics ... | Every Monday afternoon.        |
| Ante-Natal Clinic ...     | Friday afternoon, fortnightly. |

# SECTION C

## WATER

The water undertaking in the Urban District is the property of Tynemouth Corporation, which now supplies all houses in the area, with the exception of 18 at North Seaton Village which are still supplied with water from North Seaton Colliery and are served by standpipes.

By the end of the year, internal taps and wash-up sinks had been installed in 327 houses at North Seaton Colliery and these houses, together with the 40 modern colliery houses in Wansbeck Street and Sea View, are now supplied by Tynemouth Corporation.

All houses in the district, with the exception of the 18 mentioned above, now have internal taps.

The water is soft and of a high bacteriological standard, but is very brown during periods of wet weather.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The sewerage scheme at North Seaton Colliery was completed in 1953 and by the end of the year 327 privy middens had been abolished and an equal number of water closets provided in their place.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The new public convenience on the promenade was completed in 1953 and was opened early in the summer. This makes the fourth convenience in Newbiggin, the other three being situated at Bridge Street, Milburn Park and Prospect Place, respectively. The Prospect Place convenience is much used by campers on the moor and, at the height of the summer season, is inadequate to provide for the needs of all the visitors. A nuisance is, in fact, created by its excessive use and this is undoubtedly due to the large numbers permitted by the Freeholders of Newbiggin to camp on the moor. Prolonged negotiations between the Council and the Freeholders have failed to induce the latter to meet their responsibility in this matter, in spite of a generous offer by the Council to assist with the cost of enlarging the sanitary accommodation. The situation will be closely watched during the summer of 1954 and the Council will take prompt action if the nuisance recurs.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING

All scavenging is carried out by direct labour by means of three motor-driven cleansing vehicles. All ashbins are emptied twice weekly.

## REFUSE TIPS

Refuse from Newbiggin is deposited at the Blue Holes tip, where controlled tipping came into operation during the year. Refuse from North Seaton is deposited on the tip at the foot of Sandy Lane.

## SHOPS AND OFFICES

Shops and food premises continued to receive attention whenever possible, but, owing to the lack of a full-time Sanitary Inspector, much less could be done than was desirable.

## SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There are no swimming baths in the area.

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Four Council houses and twelve private houses were found to be infested during the year and were disinfected by means of "Pyragra" applied by a pressure spray. This work was carried out by Council workmen.

## SCHOOLS

Number of schools in the district :—

|              |     |     |     |     |   |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Newbiggin    | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 Council Schools (modern, junior and infant).  |
|              |     |     |     |     | 1 Church of England School (junior and infant). |
| North Seaton | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 Council Schools (mixed and infant).           |

All have main water supply and water carriage system of sewage disposal.

## RODENT CONTROL

Sewers were baited regularly; business premises and houses on receipt of complaints.



## CAMPING SITES

Newbiggin moor near the Church Point has for many years been used as a camping site for tents and caravans. The position is very suitable for this purpose, but lack of control by the owners of the site has frequently resulted in the creation of a nuisance.

Too many people are allowed on the site at one time and the Freeholders have failed to provide any amenities such as an adequate water supply and means of disposal of refuse and sewage. The Council is determined that this nuisance must not be permitted to recur.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT — Year ending 31st December, 1953

|                                | No. of Inspections during year | No. of Defects or Contraventions of Bye-laws. | No. of Informal Notices served | Defects remedied by Informal Action | No. of Statutory Notices served | Defects remedied by Statutory Action | Legal Proceedings |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| HOUSING                        |                                |   |                                |                                     |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Structural Defects .. .. .     | 97                             | —   | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Defective Food Store .. ..     |                                | 47  | —                              | 47                                  | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Dampness .. .. .               |                                | 14  | 10                             | 10                                  | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Overcrowding .. .. .           |                                | 13  | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| WATER SUPPLY                   |                                |   |                                |                                     |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Insufficient .. .. .           | 379                            | —   | —                              | 379                                 | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Unsatisfactory .. .. .         |                                | —   | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| DRAINAGE                       |                                |   |                                |                                     |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Insufficient .. .. .           | 347                            | —   | —                              | 327                                 | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Defective .. .. .              |                                | 20  | 20                             | 18                                  | 2                               | 2                                    | —                 |
| SANITARY CONVENIENCES          |                                |   |                                |                                     |                                 |                                      |                   |
| Insufficient .. .. .           | 356                            | 327   | —                              | 327                                 | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Defective .. .. .              |                                | 29  | —                              | 29                                  | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Dairies .. .. .                | 12                             | —   | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Food Premises .. .. .          | 30                             | 10  | 10                             | 10                                  | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Shops Acts .. .. .             | 14                             | 1   | 1                              | 1                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Slaughterhouses .. .. .        | —                              | —   | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Tents, Vans, etc. .. .. .      | 31                             | 31  | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Offensive Trades .. .. .       | —                              | —   | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Factories and Workplaces ..    | 21                             | 1   | 1                              | 1                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Keeping of Animals .. .. .     | 5                              | 1   | 1                              | 1                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Insanitary Ashpits and Bins .. | 327                            | 19  | 19                             | 19                                  | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Offensive Accumulations .. ..  | 8                              | 8   | 8                              | 8                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Smoke Nuisances .. .. .        | 1                              | —   | —                              | —                                   | —                               | —                                    | —                 |
| Total ..                       | 1628                           | 521   | 70                             | 1177                                | 2                               | 2                                    | —                 |

## SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

|  | By<br>Informal<br>Action        | By<br>Statutory<br>Notice | Total |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| SANITARY CONVENIENCES  |                                 |                           |       |
| Privies and Privy ashpits abolished ..                                 | 327                             | —                         | 327   |
| Privies and Privy ashpits repaired ..                                  | 2                               | —                         | 2     |
| Pail-Closets abolished .. .. .   | —                               | —                         | —     |
| Water Closets provided .. .. .   | 327                             | —                         | 327   |
| Number of above for which grant was<br>given P.H.A., 1936, S. 47 .. .. | 325                             | —                         | 325   |
| Sanitary Bins provided .. .. .   | 407                             | —                         | 407   |
| Sanitary Bins renewed .. .. .  | 19                              | —                         | 19    |
| DRAINAGE   |                                 |                           |       |
| New drains constructed .. .. .   | 407                             | —                         | 407   |
| Drains repaired or reconstructed ..                                    | 18                              | 2                         | 20    |
| Additional gullies provided .. .. .                                    | 425                             | 2                         | 427   |
| Old gullies replaced .. .. .   | 19                              | —                         | 19    |
| Scullery sinks provided .. .. .  | 327                             | —                         | 327   |
| Scullery waste-pipes repaired .. ..                                    | 19                              | —                         | 19    |
| Scullery waste-pipes trapped .. ..                                     | 19                              | —                         | 19    |
| Yards repaired or reconstructed ..                                     | 6                               | —                         | 6     |
| WATER SUPPLY   |                                 |                           |       |
| Sources closed or discontinued .. One                                  | Number of houses affected .. .. |                           | 367   |
| NEW SERVICES PROVIDED  |                                 |                           |       |
| By Local Authority .. .. . 76  | Number of houses .. .. .        |                           | 76    |
| By Private Owners .. .. . 371  | Number of houses .. .. .        |                           | 371   |
| Number of Dwelling-houses supplied by —                                | (a) Internal Tap .. .. .        | 2861                      |       |
|  | (b) Standpipe .. .. .           | 18                        |       |

## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

There are in the district 22 factories and workshops. The following table gives details of the inspections made and the defects found during 1953.

There are no outworkers in the district.

1.—*INSPECTIONS* for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

| Premises  | Number on<br>Register | Number of   |                    |                         |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
|   |                       | Inspections | Written<br>Notices | Occupiers<br>Prosecuted |
| (i) Factories in which Sections<br>1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be<br>enforced by Local Authori-<br>ties .. .. .             | 10                    | 7           | 4                  | —                       |
| (iii) Factories not included in<br>(i) in which Section 7 is<br>enforced by the Local<br>Authority .. .. .              | 11                    | 11          | 4                  | —                       |
| (ii) Other premises in which<br>Section 7 is enforced by the<br>Local Authority (excluding<br>out-workers' premises) .. | 1                     | 1           | —                  | —                       |
| Total ..  | 22                    | 19          | 8                  | —                       |



## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

| Particulars                       | Number of cases in which defects were found |          |                                  |                      | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
|                                   | Found                                       | Remedied | Referred<br>To H.M.<br>Inspector | By H.M.<br>Inspector |   |
| Want of cleanliness .. .. .       | 4   | 4        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Overcrowding .. .. .              | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Unreasonable temperature .. .. .  | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Inadequate ventilation .. .. .    | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Ineffective drainage of floors .. | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Sanitary Conveniences:            |   |          |                                  |                      |   |
| (a) Insufficient .. .. .          | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective ..    | 3   | 3        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| (c) Not separate for sexes ..     | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Other offences against the Act .. | —   | —        | —                                | —                    | —   |
| Total ..                          | 7   | 7        | —                                | —                    | —   |

## SECTION D

### HOUSING

Number of New Houses erected during the Year:—

| Houses completed during the year          | With State Assistance | Unaided | Total |
|---|-----------------------|---------|-------|
| (a) By Local Authority, Permanent .. .. . | 76                    | —       | 76    |
| (b) By other Bodies or Persons, Permanent | —                     | 4       | 4     |

### 1. CLOSING AND DEMOLITION OF HOUSES

#### A. Formal Action

- (1) Number of houses demolished during 1953 as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ... .. Nil  
 (Number of houses included in above which were from pre-war confirmed Clearance Areas Nil)
- (2) Number of houses closed but not demolished as a result of formal action ... .. 2

#### B. Informal Action

- (1) Number of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above ... .. Nil

### 2. RECONDITIONING AND REPAIR

Number of houses made fit during 1953 by procedure under either Housing or Public Health Acts :

- (a) As a result of informal action ... .. 31  
 (b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ... .. 2  
 (c) By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. Nil

### 3. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, HOUSING ACT, 1949

- |  | No. of Separate Houses |
|--|------------------------|
| (a) Applications submitted to Local Authority during year ... ..                       | 130                    |
| (b) Applications rejected by Local Authority ... ..                                    | Nil                    |
| (c) Applications forwarded to Ministry ... ..  | 130                    |
| (d) Applications rejected by Ministry ... ..   | 2                      |
| (e) Applications approved ... ..   | 128                    |
| (f) Total number of applications approved in the area since inception of scheme ... .. | 134                    |

# SECTION E

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### MILK SUPPLY

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Number of Registered Dairies ... ..      | 3 |
| Number of Registered Distributors ... .. | 7 |

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

All slaughtering is done at Ashington under the Ministry of Food.

The following is a statement of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered to me during the year and found to be unfit for human consumption:—

| Unsound Food                          | Surrendered | Seized | Legal Proceedings |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------|
| Canned Goods ... .. Tins or cases ... | 413         | —      | —                 |
| Cheese ... .. lbs. ...                | 5 lbs.      | —      | —                 |
| Beef Sausage ... .. lbs. ...          | 53 lbs.     | —      | —                 |
| Pork Sausage ... .. lbs. ...          | 13 lbs.     | —      | —                 |
| Belgian Sugar ... .. lbs. ...         | 220 lbs.    | —      | —                 |
| Slab Cake ... .. lbs. ...             | 30 lbs.     | —      | —                 |

Condemned foodstuffs are removed and buried on the Council's refuse tip.

# SECTION F

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious disease is now provided by the Regional Hospital Board at Walkergate Hospital, Newcastle.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS

|                      | Age Unknown | Under 1 year | 1-2 years | 3-4 years | 5-9 years | 10-14 years | 15-19 years | 20-34 years | 35-44 years | 45-64 years | 65 years and over | Total | Admitted to Hospital | Deaths |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|--------|
| Scarlet fever .. ..  | 1           | —            | 1         | 5         | 10        | 2           | —           | 1           | —           | —           | —                 | 20    | —                    | —      |
| Pneumonia .. ..      | —           | —            | —         | —         | 1         | —           | 1           | 2           | 1           | 6           | 4                 | 15    | —                    | 4      |
| Measles .. ..        | —           | 5            | 35        | 35        | 19        | —           | —           | —           | —           | —           | —                 | 94    | —                    | —      |
| Food Poisoning .. .. | —           | —            | —         | —         | —         | —           | —           | 1           | —           | —           | —                 | 1     | 1                    | —      |

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There was no significant outbreak of any of the notifiable infectious diseases in 1953. The only one which was at all prevalent was Measles, 94 cases of which were notified. Almost all of these occurred during the month of January and represented the final stage of the epidemic which began in November, 1952.

### DIPHTHERIA

No case of this disease has occurred since 1950 and there has been no death from this cause during the past 6 years.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year, 167 children completed a course of primary immunisation and 136 received re-inforcing injections.

It is estimated that, at 31st December, 1953, 54.79% of pre-school children and 83.82% of all children under 15 years of age had completed a course of immunisations at some time.



The immunity index, i.e., the percentage of children who had completed a primary course of treatment or had received a re-inforcing injection in the previous 5 years, was :—

- 13.6 for children under 1 year.
- 65.4 for children aged 1 to 4 years.
- 54.2 for children aged 5-14 years.
- 54.4 for all children under the age of 15 years.

These figures should be materially increased at the end of 1954 as visits for the purpose of immunisation will be paid during the year to all schools in the district. Some, at least, of the schools would have been visited during 1953, but for the fact that the Medical Officer of Health was absent from duty for a considerable time owing to illness, and, consequently, the large amount of extra work which developed on the Assistant Medical Officer seriously interfered with the progress of immunisation.

The following table shows the continuing decline of Diphtheria in England and Wales :—

| Year        | Deaths     | Cases  |
|-------------|------------|--------|
| 1944 ... .. | 934 ... .. | 23,199 |
| 1945 ... .. | 722 ... .. | 18,596 |
| 1946 ... .. | 472 ... .. | 11,986 |
| 1947 ... .. | 244 ... .. | 5,609  |
| 1948 ... .. | 156 ... .. | 3,575  |
| 1949 ... .. | 84 ... ..  | 1,890  |
| 1950 ... .. | 49 ... ..  | 962    |
| 1951 ... .. | 34 ... ..  | 699    |
| 1952 ... .. | 31 ... ..  | 375    |
| 1953 ... .. | 24* ... .. | 240*   |

\* Provisional

The average annual number of deaths for the 10-year period 1931-1940 was 2,800.

These figures indicate the continuing success of the campaign against diphtheria, but there is a danger that this very success will lead parents to assume that this disease is no longer a menace. Diphtheria is now an uncommon disease, but if preventive efforts were relaxed there might be a return of serious outbreaks. During 1953 there were, in some parts of the country, sharp reminders that "Diphtheria Still Kills".

The following table, which includes figures obtained from the Registrar-General's return S.D.55, shows the comparative figures of notifications of certain diseases in England and Wales, the 160 Smaller Towns and Newbiggin :—

| Diseases              | Cases notified in the district | Rate per 1,000 of the population |                   |                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                       |                                | Newbiggin                        | 160 Smaller Towns | England & Wales |
| Scarlet Fever .. .. . | 20                             | 2.02                             | 1.44              | 1.39            |
| Measles .. .. .       | 94                             | 9.48                             | 12.32             | 12.36           |
| Pneumonia .. .. .     | 15                             | 1.51                             | 0.76              | 0.84            |

## TUBERCULOSIS

### New Cases and Mortality during 1953

|                   |     |     |     |     | New Cases |           | Deaths |           |    |    | Total |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|--------|-----------|----|----|-------|
|                   |     |     |     |     | Resp.     | Non-Resp. | Resp.  | Non-Resp. |    |    | Total |
|                   |     |     |     |     | M.        | F.        | M.     | F.        | M. | F. |       |
| Under 1 year      | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 1 - 4 years       | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 5 - 14 years      | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 15 - 24 years     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | 1         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 25 - 34 years     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 35 - 44 years     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 45 - 54 years     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 55 - 64 years     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 65 - 74 years     | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| 75 years and over | ... | ... | ... | ... | —         | —         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |
| Total             |     |     |     |     | 2         | 1         | —      | —         | —  | —  | —     |

|   |     |     |     |     |     |                           |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| Death rate from Tuberculosis            | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil                       |
| Case rate of Tuberculosis               | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.30 per 1,000 population |
| Case rate of Pulmonary Tuberculosis     | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 0.30 per 1,000 population |
| Case rate of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil                       |

Only three new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1953, a reduction of 1 on the number for 1952. No case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified.

No death due to Tuberculosis occurred during the year.

## MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

The following table shows the deaths, in age-groups, resulting from Malignant Neoplasms of different sites:—

### MORTALITY FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS

|                   |     |     |     | MALES |       |     |       | FEMALES |       |       |     |       |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|---------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
|                   |     |     |     | 45-54 | 55-64 | 75+ | Total | 35-44   | 45-54 | 55-64 | 75+ | Total |
| Larynx            | ... | ... | ... | —     | —     | 1   | 1     | —       | —     | —     | —   | —     |
| Lung and Bronchus | ... | ... | ... | 1     | —     | —   | 1     | —       | —     | 1     | —   | 1     |
| Breast            | ... | ... | ... | —     | —     | —   | —     | 1       | 1     | —     | —   | 2     |
| Stomach           | ... | ... | ... | —     | —     | —   | —     | —       | —     | 1     | 1   | 2     |
| Bowel             | ... | ... | ... | —     | —     | 2   | 2     | —       | —     | —     | 1   | 1     |
| Bladder           | ... | ... | ... | 1     | —     | —   | 1     | —       | —     | —     | —   | —     |
| Prostate          | ... | ... | ... | —     | 1     | 1   | 2     | —       | —     | —     | —   | —     |
| Uterus            | ... | ... | ... | —     | —     | —   | —     | —       | 1     | 1     | —   | 2     |
| Total             |     |     |     | 2     | 1     | 4   | 7     | 1       | 2     | 3     | 2   | 8     |

In 1953 the number of males dying from this cause was 7 and the number of females 8. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 14 and 8 respectively.

Death Rate from Malignant Neoplasms : 1.51 per 1,000 population.



## ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH — 1953

## VITAL STATISTICS

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for Certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1953. Provisional figures based on Quarterly Returns

|   |    |    |    |    |    |    | England<br>and<br>Wales         | 160 County<br>Boroughs<br>and Great<br>Towns<br>(including<br>London) | 160 Smaller<br>Towns<br>(Resident<br>Population<br>25,000-50,000<br>at 1951 Census) | London<br>Administrative<br>County |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| <i>Births</i>                                 |    |    |    |    |    |    | Rates per 1,000 Home Population |   |   |                                    |
| Live Births                                   | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 15.5                            | 17.0  | 15.7  | 17.5                               |
| Still Births                                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.35                            | 0.43  | 0.34  | 0.38                               |
|   |    |    |    |    |    |    | 22.4 (a)                        | 24.8 (a)  | 21.4 (a)  | 21.0 (a)                           |
| <i>Deaths</i>                                 |    |    |    |    |    |    |                                 |   |   |                                    |
| All Causes                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 11.4                            | 12.2  | 11.3  | 12.5                               |
| Typhoid and paratyphoid                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.00                            | 0.00  | —   | —                                  |
| Whooping Cough                                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.01                            | 0.01  | 0.00  | 0.00                               |
| Diphtheria                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.00                            | 0.00  | 0.00  | —                                  |
| Tuberculosis                                  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.20                            | 0.24  | 0.19  | 0.24                               |
| Influenza                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.16                            | 0.15  | 0.17  | 0.15                               |
| Smallpox                                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.00                            | 0.00  | 0.00  | —                                  |
| Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.01                            | 0.01  | 0.01  | 0.01                               |
| Pneumonia                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.55                            | 0.59  | 0.52  | 0.64                               |
| <i>Notifications (Corrected)</i>              |    |    |    |    |    |    |                                 |   |   |                                    |
| Typhoid fever                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.00                            | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.01                               |
| Paratyphoid fever                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.01                            | 0.01  | 0.01  | 0.01                               |
| Meningococcal infection                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.03                            | 0.04  | 0.03  | 0.03                               |
| Scarlet Fever                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1.39                            | 1.50  | 1.44  | 1.02                               |
| Whooping cough                                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3.58                            | 3.72  | 3.38  | 3.30                               |
| Diphtheria                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.01                            | 0.01  | 0.01  | —                                  |
| Erysipelas                                    | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.14                            | 0.14  | 0.13  | 0.12                               |
| Smallpox                                      | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.00                            | 0.00  | 0.00  | —                                  |
| Measles                                       | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12.36                           | 11.27   | 12.32   | 8.09                               |
| Pneumonia                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.84                            | 0.92  | 0.76  | 0.73                               |
| Acute poliomyelitis (incl. polioencephalitis) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. |                                 |   |   |                                    |
| Paralytic                                     | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.07                            | 0.06  | 0.06  | 0.07                               |
| Non-paralytic                                 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.04                            | 0.03  | 0.04  | 0.03                               |
| Food Poisoning                                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.24                            | 0.25  | 0.24  | 0.38                               |
| Puerperal pyrexia                             | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 18.23 (a)                       | 24.33 (a)   | 12.46 (a)   | 28.61 (a)                          |
| <i>Deaths</i>                                 |    |    |    |    |    |    | Rates per 1,000 Live Births     |   |   |                                    |
| All causes under 1 year of age                | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 26.8 (b)                        | 30.8  | 24.3  | 24.8                               |
| Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age  | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1.1                             | 1.3   | 0.9   | 1.1                                |

## Maternal Mortality in England and Wales

| Intermediate List No.<br>and cause |   | Number<br>of<br>Deaths | Rates per 1,000<br>Total (Live and<br>Still) Births | Rates per<br>million women<br>aged 15-44 |
|------------------------------------|---|------------------------|---|--|
| A115                               | Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium              | 68                     | 0.10  | —  |
| A116                               | Abortion with toxæmia   | 7                      | 0.01  | 1  |
| A116                               | Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium                  | 166                    | 0.24  | —  |
| A117                               | Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth                         | 90                     | 0.13  | —  |
| A118                               | Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia                   | 30                     | 0.04  | 3  |
| A119                               | Abortion with sepsis  | 39                     | 0.06  | 4  |
| A120                               | Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium | 125                    | 0.18  | —  |

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

(b) Per 1,000 related live births.





